



- The ultimate goal of HATS is to improve the marine environment of Hong Kong. Independent and unbiased environmental impact assessment is essential for safeguarding the achievement of this goal. A proper environmental data management system to monitor the performance of the new (upgraded) sewage treatment works, and the water quality and ecological conditions in Victoria Harbour and its surrounding waters, is critical to the success of the scheme, to detect any changes in the marine environment and to give adequate early warning for any need to upgrade. Information generated from the system should also be made available to policy makers and the general public timely to facilitate rational debates and decision making on the way forward.

Detailed minutes of the EA Panel meeting can be found at the LegCo website.

HKIEIA 10th Anniversary

As this year marks our 10th year, we will be celebrating the anniversary with a banquet on either the 6th or 13th January 2005. We are currently arranging a venue and will keep you posted on the details. Our guest of honor will be the Honorable Dr. Sarah Liao, and we promise an exciting evening and possibly a few surprises. Arrangements will be made to ensure that the cost of participation will be most reasonable.

In preparation for the anniversary, the HKIEIA Executive Council is preparing a special compendium of environmental papers prepared by Hong Kong consultants and leading companies. This Committee is now calling on all members to contribute their environmental-related papers/articles over the years, along with memorable photos, for compilation. The compendium will be entirely a PDF document and will be included in a special gift for the occasion. Please send copies of whatever documents you deem appropriate to Dr Glenn Frommer via e-mail (gfrommer@mtr.com.hk) or to Miss Clara U via e-mail (accord@epd.gov.hk) by 30 November 2005.

Membership and Accredited Monitoring Professionals (AMP)

HKIEIA Membership

Membership figures are as follows: 22 Fellows, 118 Corporate Members, and 23 Student and Associate Members. In all, a total of 163 members.

AMP

A new arrangement for the AMP membership application process was introduced recently, with a view to streamline the previous process and attract more members:

- From 2005 onward, there is no longer a separate fee charged for AMP membership renewal. AMPs are now only required to renew their annual HKIEIA membership subscriptions in May every year. The one-off new AMP membership application fee, currently at HK\$200, is retained.
- There is no other change to the AMP membership renewal process. AMPs are simply required to submit at the beginning of each year their 15 hours of CPD in the previous year.
- The new arrangement has attracted 6 new applications and the Institute has currently a total of 49 AMPs. As announced earlier through emails, the AMP list will be updated every year, to remove members that we have lost contact with or have failed to meet the renewal requirements. An updated 2005 AMP list is being prepared and will be posted on the HKIEIA web shortly. For any queries, please contact Josh Lam directly at 3105 8541 or via email (Josh.Lam@maunsell.acom.com), fax (2891 0305) or post.

HKIEIA Finances

The Treasurer reports that as of September 2005, the cash at the bank is HK\$673,411.37.

Editorial

This year is already shaping up to be one of our most exciting. The newly formed Executive Committee consisting of: Freeman Cheung, Richard Cheung, Glenn Frommer, Westwood Hong, Simon Hui, Samuel Kwong, Pong Lai, Josh Lam, Henry Leung, David Ng and Clara U has met and is developing a stimulating series of site visits and lectures. This year marks our 10th Anniversary as an Institute and we are planning a banquet. More information is presented below. This issue also brings you an update on the IAIA '05 event in Boston, USA where the Institute was well represented. There is a report on the visit to the Disney Rail Line in July 2005 and a Professional view on HATS Stage 2. The Executive Committee is also discussing support for a further international environmental assessment conference in 2006 which some of you may like participate. Naturally, we hope to see as many members at our upcoming events and encourage new joiners. The Institute thrives on its members contributions.



Dr. Glenn Frommer

Chairman's Remarks

First of all, I would like to welcome Dr Pong Lai, Dr Richard Cheung and Mr Henry Leung to join the Executive Committee. I am sure they will contribute positively to the success of the Institute during my remaining tenure.

The Institute has been focusing on providing activities to our members as well as participating in professional forum to promote the EIA practices in Hong Kong. Dr Pong Lai has represented HKIEIA to give a presentation to Legco on 5 July regarding our position on HATS. I have presented a paper on the Assessment Tools for SEA at the SEA workshop held on 18 June. We also had an informal discussion on

EIA practices in China with delegates from the Appraisal Centre for Environment and Engineering, State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), which was well attended by our members on 26 July.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary in 2006, Dr Glenn Former had kindly accepted the invitation to act as the Event Organizer. You will no doubt be hearing from him soon on the upcoming events or functions to mark this important date for the Institute. Please feel free to contact us if you have any ideas on how we commemorate our 10th Anniversary.

Freeman Cheung

HKIEIA Activities

IAIA '05 Conference at Boston

The IAIA '05 Conference was held between 31 May to 3 June 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA with a focus on Ethics and Quality in Impact Assessment. The conference consisted of keynote speeches by eminent speakers, fourteen theme forums that address challenging and cross-cutting topics, and many useful and enriching concurrent sessions, workshops and roundtables.

The Institute is sponsoring the registration fees for those HKIEIA members attending IAIA Conferences as HKIEIA representatives. This year a total of six HKIEIA members attended the Conference with Alan Kwok (FHKIEIA), Prof. Richard Cheung (MHKIEIA) and Mark Shea (MHKIEIA) taking advantage of the sponsorship, and two of them made presentations at the Conference. Both presentations were well received by the participants. Alan Kwok was attending the meeting as one of the Board Members of the IAIA. Prof. Albert Koenig, External Examiner of AMPs, also attended the Conference.



Photo 1 - Prof. Lam's delivering his speech at the Conference

Prof. K C Lam (MHKIEIA) presented a key-note paper on *Public Participation as a Catalyst of Change in Environmental Governance* which showed how the public participation process had shaped environmental policies, mode of decision-making and dynamics between the government, public and private sectors.



Photo 2: Mr. Hui presenting the paper on CPI at the Conference

Mr. Simon Hui (FHKIEIA), also representing the EPD, made a joint-presentation on Continuous Public Involvement (CPI) Concept and the 3D EIA Digital Public Engagement Tools which discussed the progress of CPI in Hong Kong's EIA process and demonstrated how information technology could be used to enable and encourage public engagement.



Photo 3: The booth set up by the Hong Kong EPD



Photo 4: The booth attracted vast interests of the participants

Delegates from EPD (including Terence Tsang MHKIEIA) also set up a booth to demonstrate how the 3D EIA tool helped visualize the assessment and results of EIA reports and facilitated the public to offer their comments on via the internet. Many of the participants were impressed by the 3D tool and some of them showed interests in applying the concept in their own projects.

At the Conference Banquet, Simon Hui, representing Hong Kong SAR, joined other representatives to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the IAIA.



Photo 5: Mr. Simon Hui representing Hong Kong to join the celebration ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the IAIA



Photo 6: HKIEIA members at the banquet



Professional Views on the Implementation Plan for Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2

On behalf of the Institute Dr. Lai Pong Wai submitted a paper to the LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel on the implementation plan for the HATS Stage 2. Dr. Lai also represented the Institute to the EA Panel meeting on 5 July 2005. The key points expressed are summarized here:

- The provision of the much needed upgrading of sewage treatment level in Hong Kong Island within the HATS catchment is fully supported. Discharges of sewage only preliminarily treated into the Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island South waters can no longer be considered as environmentally acceptable.
- Given the current satisfactory performance records of the existing CEPT plants at the Stonecutter's Island and the feasibility of extending its capacity to cater for the sewage collected from the various nodes at Hong Kong Island, increased sewage volume due to future population growth and the possible need for treatment upgrade in the future, the proposed implementation plan represents a sound resource management practice aiming to improve the environment.
- The distributed treatment option is severely constrained by limited space and proximity to the urban centres. Risks of adverse environmental
- impacts to adjacent land uses in case of failure of the mitigation measures cannot be ignored. Compared with the centralized treatment option, the consequences of the risks would be more severe, due to the proximity to surrounding sensitive land uses.
- Advances in sewage treatment technologies may make it possible for compact and/or underground treatment works to be sited in these congested areas. However, future upgrading would be severely restricted if at all possible.

MTR DRL Visit – July 2005

Members of the HKIEIA visited the newly completed MTR Disneyland Resort Line on 26 July 2005. The visitors gathered at the new Sunny Bay Station and were introduced with the new features adopted in the design and construction of the modern-styled station. The participants were presented a Disney souvenir and everyone was excited when the new DRL train arrived at the station. During the journey, the extensive soft landscaping was noted. At the Disneyland Resort Station, the Victorian style design impressed all the participants. With the group photographs taken just outside the theme park entrance, the visit was enjoyed by all.

